Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 07508 171439Z

47
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 AS-01 /092 W
---------- 044290
R 171356Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8479
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 7508

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, PL
SUBJECT: POLISH WORK ON ORENBURG AND POLOCK PIPELINES

REF: WARSAW 6728

1. A RECENT POLISH PRESS REPORT ANNOUNCED THAT POLISH SPECIALISTS FROM THE ENERGOPOL ORGANIZATION HAVE ASSEMBLED THE FIRST KILOMETERS OF PIPE FOR BOTH THE POLOCK OIL LINE AND THE ORENBURG GAS LINE. THE REPORT SAID THAT 1500 POLES ARE NOW WORKING ON THE TWO PROJECTS AND THAT THIS NUMBER WILL INCREASE TO 6000 BY NEXT YEAR. THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT THE GUIDELINES FOR THE SEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS STRESSED THE DEVELOPMENT OF PIPELINE TRANSPORT AND ENERGY TRANS-MISSION NETWORKS. THERE ARE NOW THREE THOUSAND KILOMETERS OF PIPELINES IN POLAND WITH DIAMETERS GREATER THAN 300 MM.
THE REPORT NOTED THAT ENERGOPOL IS ALREADY KNOWN IN EAST GERMANY, AND THAT AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED TO CONSTRUCT
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 WARSAW 07508 171439Z

AN ADDITIONAL 170 KILOMETERS OF PIPELINE IN THAT COUNTRY.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

2. COMMENT: A WELL-INFORMED POLISH SOURCE RECENTLY TOLD US THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE PUT A CEILING, APPARENTLY NOT MUCH MORE THAN 10 MILLION METRIC TONS, ON THE AMOUNT OF CRUDE OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO BE SUPPLIES POLAND UNDER ORDINARY ANNUAL PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS. THE SOURCE EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH THE COST TO POLAND OF PARTICIPATION IN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY PROJECTS IN THE USSR AS A MEANS OF OBTAINING ADDITIONAL SOVIET PETROLEUM ARGUING THAT IN THE LONG RUN IT PROBABLY WOULD BE CHEAPER TO BUY THE OIL IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS. THIS JUDGEMENT WAS NOT APPLIED TO THE ORENBURG PIPELINE, WHICH THE SOURCE CLAIMED WOULD WORK TO POLAND'S ADVANTAGE.

3. WE DOUBT THE POLES ARE ABLE TO CALCULATE WITH PRECISION THE COST OF PARTICIPATION IN PETROLEUM PROJECTS IN THE USSR. IT IS NOTEWORTHY, HOWEVER, THAT SOME EXPERTS ARE QUESTIONING THE VALUE TO POLAND OF THESE PROJECTS, WHICH ARE LINKED TO THE PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL SOVIET PETROLEUM AND GAS SUPPLIES.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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